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**Table 6-9
NFPA 1981. Standard on Open-Circuit Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus for Fire Fighters
- Minimum Requirements Applicable to Fairfax County OHSP -**

CERTIFICATION

General

- SCBA shall: be NIOSH certified; have NIOSH certification as positive pressure; and have a NIOSH certified rated service time of at least 30 minutes.
- SCBA that are NIOSH certified as positive pressure but capable of supplying air to the user in a negative pressure, demand-type mode shall not be certified to this standard.
- SCBA that are labeled as being compliant with this standard shall meet or exceed all applicable requirements specified in this standard and shall be certified. This certification shall be to the certification program specified in this standard and shall be in addition to, and shall not be construed to be the same as, NIOSH certification.
- All certification shall be performed by an approved certification organization.
- Compliant SCBA shall: be labeled and listed; and have a product label that meets the requirements of this standard.
- Where accessories are to be attached to or integrated with the SCBA, they shall be tested with and certified as part of the SCBA.
- SCBA shall meet all design and performance requirements of this standard with accessories installed. Accessories shall not be required to meet any of the performance requirements of this standard other than as specified.

Certification Program

- The certification organization shall be primarily engaged in certification work and shall not have a monetary interest in the product's ultimate profitability; they shall not be owned or controlled by manufacturers or vendors of the product being certified.
- The certification organization shall refuse to certify products that do not comply with all requirements of this standard.
- The certification organization shall have: laboratory facilities and equipment for conducting proper tests available; a program for calibration of all instruments; and procedures to ensure proper control of all testing. Good practice shall be followed regarding: use of laboratory manuals; form data sheets; documented calibration/calibration routines; performance verification; proficiency testing; staff qualification; and training programs.

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Certification Program (Continued)

- The certification organization shall: audit the manufacturer's quality assurance program to ensure that it provides continued product compliance with this standard; ensure that a product recall system is part of the quality assurance program; and have a follow-up inspection program of the manufacturing facilities of the certified product, with at least two random and unannounced visits per 12-month period. During follow-up visits, the certification organization shall sample product(s) at random from the manufacturer's production line, in-house stock and/or open market.
- The certification organization shall have a program for investigating field reports alleging malperformance or failure of listed products.

Inspection and Testing

Inspection and testing requirements are for manufacturer use and are not directly relevant to the Department. However, Department members tasked with respirator purchase, fit testing and/or maintenance should be aware of these standard requirements and ensure that equipment purchased is appropriately marked with certification assurance(s).

Manufacturer's Quality Assurance Program

Not directly relevant to the Department.

Product Labeling

- In addition to NIOSH/MSHA certification label and the certification organization's label, each SCBA shall have a product label permanently and conspicuously attached upon which at least the following information and warning are printed in at least 1/16 in. (1.5 mm) high letters. The following statement:

**THIS SCBA MEETS THE REQUIREMENTS OF NFPA 1981, STANDARD ON OPEN-CIRCUIT SELF-CONTAINED
BREATHING APPARATUS FOR FIRE FIGHTERS, 1992 EDITION.**

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Product Labeling (Continued)

- The following warning

FOR RESPIRATORY PROTECTION, SCBA MUST BE WORN AND USED AS SPECIFIED IN MANUFACTURER'S INSTRUCTIONS. DO NOT USE SCBA ALONE FOR ANY FIRE FIGHTING OR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS OPERATIONS; ADDITIONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT IS REQUIRED FOR PROTECTION. USERS MUST CLEAN AND MAINTAIN THE SCBA ONLY IN ACCORDANCE WITH MANUFACTURE'S INSTRUCTIONS. NO PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT CAN PROVIDE COMPLETE PROTECTION FROM ALL CONDITIONS – USE EXTREME CARE FOR ALL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS. ACCESSORIES NOT CERTIFIED FOR USE WITH THIS SCBA MAY DEGRADE THE PERFORMANCE OF THIS SCBA OR MAY VOID NIOSH/MSHA CERTIFICATION. FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE WARNINGS MAY RESULT IN SERIOUS INJURY OR DEATH.

- The identification of the major components of the SCBA that are required for certification to this standard. The following warning:

DO NOT REMOVE THIS LABEL

- The major components listed by the manufacturer in this standard shall be identified with the lot number or serial number or the year and month of manufacture.
- All portions of the required product labels shall be printed at least in English.

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User Information

- The SCBA manufacturer shall provide, with each SCBA, instructions and information for maintenance, cleaning, disinfecting, storage, and inspection.
- The SCBA manufacturer shall provide, with each SCBA, specific instructions and training materials regarding the use, operation, safety considerations, and limitations of the SCBA.

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Performance requirements set forth in this standard are directed toward the manufacturer and are not directly relevant to the Department. However, members tasked with the purchase, fit testing and/or maintenance of respirators should be aware that the following areas are clearly addressed in the standard and minimum performance requirements provided: **(1) Air Flow Performance, (2) Environmental Temperature Performance, (3) Vibration Resistance Performance (4) Fabric Flame Resistance Performance; (5) Fabric Heat Resistance Performance; (6) Thread Heat Resistance Performance (7) Accelerated Corrosion Resistance Performance; (8) Particulate Resistance Performance (9) Facepiece Lens Abrasion Resistance Performance; (10) Communications Performance; and (11) Heat and Flame Resistance Performance.**

TEST METHODS

- Test methods set forth in this standard are directed toward the manufacturer and are not directly relevant to the Department. However, members tasked with the purchase, fit testing and/or maintenance of respirators should be aware that the following tests are clearly addressed in the standard and required procedures provided: **(1) Air Flow Performance Test; (2) Environmental Temperature Tests; (3) Vibration Tests; (4) Fabric Heat Tests; (5) Accelerated Corrosion Test; (6) Particulate Test; (7) Facepiece Lens Abrasion Test; (8) Communication Test; and (9) Heat and Flame Test**